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In re Patent Application of

WINTER et al

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For: DATA SELECTION SYSTEM AND METHOD THEREFOR

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June 25, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of determining the value of the relevance parameter for each data file, for each sort statement, comprises the step of identifying the most relevant data file for each sort statement, assigning it a maximum relevance parameter value and determining respective normalised values for the rest of the data files based on said maximum relevance parameter value.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 4 wherein the elements move in steps and a movement vector is determined for each step.

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A.W.

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